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## **JEFFERSON COUNTY'S WEAR CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission recently added Wear Cemetery in Clay to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. The Clay Historical Society and the Birmingham Territory Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution nominated this cemetery to the register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now nineteen cemeteries in Jefferson County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 252 cemeteries statewide.

The earliest documented burial was that of Samuel Wear who died on March 15, 1852. The Wear family was one of the founding families of the Clay community. Samuel Wear was a Revolutionary War Veteran and fought at Kings Mountain. He is also said to have organized the first Masonic Lodge in Jefferson County. Other notable burials include John Merriken who fought in the Florida Indian Wars and Andrew B. Wear and David H. Wear who both fought in the Confederate Infantry during the Civil War. In recent years, the City of Clay, the Birmingham Territory Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Clay Historical Society have shown an interest in the cemetery.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama's state agency for historic preservation.*

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